


Senator Patty Murray
July 26, 1994
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any given day, and there are at least 10 million prisoners going thorough our country's jails each year. This incredible large number of inmates make the potential costs of fraudulent phone behavior staggering. All of these problems have been worked on over the past 10 years and resolved through the present inmate phone system. Victims and witnesses are now protected, and fraudulent phone calls from jails have been virtually stopped.

The King County Department of Adult Detention requests that you consider the concerns and welfare of victims, witnesses, and companies that were at the mercy of these inmates, who committed fraudulent acts of illegal phone usage in the past, but who can no longer do so because of the current inmate phone systems.

I am certain prosecutors, criminal judges, police, and victims assistance, who hear complaints regarding the above inmate acts, would agree that the inmate phone system has proven successful in substantially stopping the past practice of the inmates criminal phone behavior.

Please maintain the present inmate phone regulations, allowing for reasonable and responsible inmate access to phones. If I can be of further assistance, please contact me at (206) 296-1269.



Ray J. Coleman
Associate Director-Services

RJC/lg
r.mur

cc: Arlene Engel-Chair, Mental Health Division
Warden-Vincent A. Guarini
Diana Menecchia-VP AT&T
Vincent Townsend, APCC Inmate Phone Service Providers Task Force



King County
Department of Adult Detention
Arthur Wallenstein, *Director*
King County Correctional Facility
500 Fifth Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98104-2332
(206) 296-1268 FAX (206) 296-0570

July 26, 1994

Vice-President Al Gore
Office of the Vice President
Old Executive Building
Washington, D.C. 20501

RE: CC DOCKET NO. 92-77 OPPOSITION TO BILLED PARTY PREFERENCE

Dear Vice President Gore:

I am writing to alert you to the difficult circumstances "billed party preference" will cause crime victims and witnesses, and private companies. Ten years ago inmates called victims and witnesses to harass and threaten them. These calls were made possible because the phones were unrestricted, prior to the present inmate telephone systems. Witnesses would answer the phone not knowing who they were talking to, and be verbally threatened and harassed before they realized who was calling. Now, with the present collect phone system, victims and witnesses are able to refuse calls from inmates before the inmate has a chance to threaten and intimidate them.

The fraudulent behavior of inmates using unrestricted phones was also extraordinarily costly to phone companies, individuals, and other private companies. An inmate would secure an illegal calling card number (or several numbers) and sell them to other inmates throughout the jail. The inmates would make fraudulent calls, and the public would call the jail and insist that inmates be restricted from telephones.

Under court order inmates cannot, in general, be restricted from the phones. Neither the public calling nor the jail could determine who among the thousands of inmates were making the calls. The cost of the bills ranged in the hundreds of dollars, up to \$25,000 for one company. Inmates were calling Europe, Canada, and other foreign countries, and talking for long periods of time. Inmates would call telephone answering services, hospital switch boards and others, duping the operators into putting calls through for them, until the billings alerted the companies to the criminal phone behavior.

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Inmates cannot use calling card numbers over the present inmate phone system to make fraudulent calls, saving hundreds of thousands of dollars a year. Consider that there are 500,000 inmates locked up in U.S. jails on any given day, and there are at least 10 million prisoners going thorough our country's jails each year. This incredible large number of inmates make the potential costs of fraudulent phone behavior staggering. All of these problems have been worked on over the past 10 years and resolved through the present inmate phone system. Victims and witnesses are now protected, and fraudulent phone calls from jails have been virtually stopped.

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Congressman James McDermott
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: CC DOCKET NO. 92-77 OPPOSITION TO BILLED PARTY PREFERENCE

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